



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, March 5, 2007**

**SB 1340, An Act Concerning A Comprehensive Plan To
Eradicate Childhood Lead Poisoning**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to present testimony on **SB 1340, An Act Concerning A Comprehensive Plan To Eradicate Childhood Lead Poisoning**.

CHA strongly supports lead poisoning prevention measures and a program that would protect children from lead poisoning through screening and treatment. However, CHA is concerned that provisions of SB 1340 have the potential to impose greater stress on an already over-burdened healthcare system.

Section 2 of the bill would require blood lead screening by all primary care pediatric providers, including hospital emergency departments, when care is delivered to a child. The bill further requires that after the screening, the provider must notify the parent or guardian of the results. If enacted, this bill would not only place additional stress on overcrowded emergency rooms, it would blur the distinction between appropriate emergency care and non-emergency care.

CHA supports a more targeted, approach that emphasizes collaboration with pediatricians rather than the imposition of across-the-board mandates.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.